

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.fppc.ca.gov



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Contact: Jon Matthews, Whitney Barazoto, Chris Espinosa at (916) 322-7761

FPPC to Act on Revised Rules for “Carrying Over” Contributions from Primary to General Election

The Fair Political Practices Commission on Thursday (April 13) is to vote on revised rules to clarify how candidates for state office can “carry over” contributions to a later campaign for the same state office.

The FPPC will also consider a number of other agenda items, including 10 enforcement cases, rules relating to repaid campaign loans, approval of a 2006 addendum to supplement two campaign disclosure manuals, and a request for a formal Commission opinion.

The commission’s regular monthly meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

Proposition 34, approved by voters in 2000, placed contribution limits on campaigns for state elected offices. But among other things, the ballot measure also provided that “...a candidate for elective state office may carry over contributions raised in connection with one election for elective state office to pay campaign expenditures incurred in connection with a subsequent election for the same elective state office.” For purposes of the new campaign, the “carried over” dollars are not counted under Proposition 34 contribution limits.

At the FPPC’s February meeting, commission staff proposed regulatory amendments to further clarify and implement this provision of the Political Reform Act. On Thursday, the Commission may vote on the changes.

Under the staff proposal, regulation 18537.1 would be amended to clarify that “subsequent election for the same elective office” also refers to a general election or

special general election which is connected to the primary election or special primary election for which the funds were raised.

The proposed rule changes also address how this regulation applies to a candidate who establishes a campaign bank account for an election but does not file the necessary documents to appear on the election ballot, or withdraws from an election prior to an election being held. The revised rule would prohibit the “carry over” of campaign funds in these situations and would require that the funds be transferred with attribution as required under section 85306 of the Political Reform Act. Unlike “carry over” funds, these funds would be subject to Proposition 34 contribution limits for purposes of the new campaign committee. (See agenda item #14.)

Other items on Thursday’s meeting agenda include:

- Approval of a 2006 Campaign Manual Addendum to supplement the FPPC’s existing disclosure manuals for general purpose recipient committees and independent expenditure and major donor committees. This is one of a number of manual publication projects now underway at the FPPC. (See agenda item #15.)
- Initial discussion of rules to clarify FPPC regulation 18537, which involves the application of contribution limits to repaid loans. (See agenda item #13.)
- A request for a formal commission opinion on a question involving the transfer of surplus campaign funds from one campaign committee to another committee. (See agenda item #12.)

The agenda and supporting memoranda and materials are posted on the FPPC’s website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Just click on “Agendas” on the left side of the home page and go to “Current Agenda.” The agenda is posted on the website 10 days before the meeting, and letters commenting on agenda items are also posted when received.

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